

life and times of Benjamin Franklin to cities across the United States and overseas through the work of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission. This Commission was established by Congress in 2002 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth in 2006.

The Commission hosts exhibits in a number of communities around the United States as well as in France, where Franklin served as the American Minister to Paris. These exhibitions represent a rare opportunity for the public to view the largest collection of Franklin artifacts through displays of his household furnishings, original works of art, manuscripts, and documents. In addition, through interactive multimedia exhibits and an Internet Web site, viewers are able to immerse themselves into the Franklin experience. The Franklin celebrations, organized under the Commission's guidance, offer the public an opportunity to become more familiar with Benjamin Franklin by getting a glimpse into the inspiring life of this American treasure.

Because of the expanded nature of its program, it is requested that the life of this Commission be extended so that they can continue their valuable work.

I urge all Members to come together and recognize the life and continuing legacy of Benjamin Franklin by supporting H.R. 4586.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4586, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act.

This bill, which was introduced by Representative MICHAEL CASTLE of Delaware on December 16, 2005, and was unanimously reported by the Government Reform Committee on March 30, 2006, extends the authorization of the Commission until fiscal year 2009.

Mr. Speaker, in 2002 Congress created the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, a panel of 15 outstanding Americans chosen to study and recommend programs to celebrate Franklin's 300th birthday and to mint a commemorative coin of Ben Franklin. Extending the Commission past 2007 to 2009 will allow the funds from the sale of the recently issued Ben Franklin commemorative coins to truly benefit the many Commission programs planned and underway to honor Ben Franklin.

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, which was founded in 2000 by a consortium of five Philadelphia cultural institutions, is currently presenting an international traveling exhibition entitled "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World." This exhibit has been organized to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Frank-

lin's birth and will travel around the United States and France. The exhibit premiered in Philadelphia last year and just recently stopped in St. Louis, Missouri, and from there it would go on to Houston, Texas; Denver; Atlanta; London; and Paris.

Benjamin Franklin was this Nation's greatest citizen perhaps, diplomat, statesman. He was a scientist, a philanthropist, humanitarian, inventor, and humorist.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I can remember when I was a child and found things to read that reading about Benjamin Franklin was really just simply one of the great joys of growing up, and I never will forget one thing that he said. I mean, he had all of these ideas about virtue, and he said on temperance, "Eat not to dullness, drink not to elevation." And I was asking a young fellow the other day what that meant, and he said that Franklin was saying don't eat until you get too filled and don't drink until you get too high. So, obviously, there are a lot of people in our country and our society who could remember that.

But I am indeed pleased that we are recognizing the amazing achievements of Benjamin Franklin by celebrating his 300th birthday and presenting an international traveling exhibition.

I firmly support H.R. 4586 and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1830

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4586, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4586, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to extend the life of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JACOB FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5664) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Cooper Street in Babylon, New York, as the "Jacob Fletcher Post Office Building," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5664

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JACOB SAMUEL FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110

Cooper Street in Babylon, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Jacob Samuel Fletcher Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Jacob Samuel Fletcher Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5664, offered by the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) would designate the post office building in Babylon, New York, as the Jacob Samuel Fletcher Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, Jacob Fletcher's love for his country was second to none, and his patriotism was evident in his service in the United States Army. He was a 1994 Babylon High School graduate who enlisted in the Army shortly after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

After completing basic training, he continued on to earn his wings as a paratrooper. Based in Camp Ederle, Italy, Jacob Fletcher was one of the first Americans to land, along with his fellow paratroopers, just north of Baghdad during the first week of the war. Jacob, just 11 days shy of his 29th birthday, was killed on November 13, 2003, when a roadside bomb exploded next to the bus he was on in the town of Samarra.

With gratitude for his bravery and sacrifice to our country, I ask all Members to join me in naming the Babylon, New York, postal facility in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL), one of the great sons of New York.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend from Illinois for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank my friend from Long Island, Congressman PETER KING, for sponsoring this resolution and for allowing me to cosponsor it with him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jacob Fletcher and his family, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution to name the Babylon post office in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, the Babylon post office no longer resides in my congressional

district, but I do have the privilege and the honor of representing Jacob's mother, Dorrine Kenney. She is a constituent; she is also a dear friend. She has become an important advisor to me on so many military issues that I confront as a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Her son, Jacob Samuel Fletcher, was a native of Long Island, and if this bill is passed, all of Long Island will know about his life and his untimely death. Jacob Fletcher grew up on Long Island, he dreamed of serving his country on Long Island. He represented us proudly when he went to Iraq.

On March 23, 2003, he and the 173rd Airborne Brigade jumped into northern Iraq and made their way to Kirkuk. On November 12, 2003, Jacob was killed by an IED on Highway 1 in Samarra.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of news does not tell us the fullness of a life. We see a name in the newspaper, we see a face, we see statistics and numbers, but none of that really describes the fullness of a life, and so I want to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues and with all America the life of Jacob Fletcher.

He was an athlete. He was an artist with a talent for drawing. He played drums. He wrote poetry. He was described as having a big heart, and of being a good listener. And those are the traits that I see in his mother.

In response to her son's death, Dorrine Kenney had every right to retreat into her own grief, to wait for the entire world to feel sorry for her and to support her. But she refused to do that. Instead she created the Jacob's Light Foundation. It sends care packages to our servicemembers in dangerous places around the world. It sends toiletries and food and snacks and reading materials and sunscreen and writing materials, all of the necessities that our troops require.

Rather than retreating into her grief, Dorrine Kenney felt it was her responsibility in her son's name to help improve the quality of life for her son's comrades.

A few months ago she came to my office, Mr. Speaker, and she was angry. We sat down and she said that she was receiving e-mails from troops in the field in the theatre in Iraq complaining that they had not received coagulant bandages, which the Department of Defense has said could save 50 percent of casualties in Iraq, and she asked me to look into it.

We called the Pentagon, and it took us a few weeks, but, in fact, we were able to solve that problem. And we are working with the Army even today to make sure that those bandages are arriving in dangerous places like Iraq and saving lives.

Another example, Mr. Speaker. This woman could have felt sorry for herself. Instead, she dedicated herself to coming into my office and working with the Army to make sure that those who were still in Iraq and Afghanistan had the life-saving supplies that they need.

The Army did not respond because of me, it did not respond because of the hearings we had in the Armed Services Committee; it responded because this mother of a son who was killed was contacted by men and women in Iraq who asked for her help.

That is exactly what Jacob Fletcher was all about, helping when people needed help, listening when people needed to be listened to. It is fitting that there is a foundation named for Jacob Fletcher which sends parcels to servicemembers who need them. And it would be even more fitting, Mr. Speaker, to name a post office in honor of Jacob Fletcher where parcels will be sent, and where the American people and those who live in Long Island will understand what he stood for, what our country stands for, and will remember him always.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for giving me this time. I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership on this.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I am very proud to stand today in support of H.R. 5664. I was very proud to introduce the resolution. And I want to thank Mr. ISRAEL, my colleague from New York, for the strong support that he has given me on this resolution and also for the strong support that he has given to the Kenney and Fletcher families.

Mr. Speaker, it has been discussed what Jacob Fletcher achieved during his life, what he achieved in his death. And he was an exceptional, exceptional human being and a young man. As was stated, he grew up in Long Island, but he dreamed about joining the military even as a young boy.

In fact, the story, it is a true story, that he actually submitted an application to join the Army when he was only 8 years old. And his mother had to explain and turn away the enlistment officers when they came to the house that Jacob was too young to join the Army. She had a tougher job of actually explaining it to Jacob that he was too young to join the Army.

But his patriotic passion cannot be extinguished, and after the September 11 attacks against our country which killed so many New Yorkers and so many Americans and also claimed a family friend, Jacob joined the Army and fulfilled his life-long calling to serve his Nation.

Jacob came from a military family. His father, his stepfather served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, and Jacob's grandfather was a veteran as well.

As Congressman ISRAEL and Ms. FOXX mentioned, Jacob completed his basic training and his airborne school at Fort Benning, and he was among the very first Americans to land in Iraq, parachuting under the cover of darkness during the first week of the war.

During his time in Iraq, Jacob and his fellow soldiers spent much of their

time in Iraq training police officers. And in conversations with his family, he spoke of how much he wanted to help these people as this was his calling. He very clearly felt that this was the right thing to do.

Unfortunately Jacob's life ended tragically before he could return home and before he could fulfill all of his dreams. On November 13, 2003, a roadside bomb exploded near the convoy he was in near the town of Samarra, and he died the next day, November 14. He was just 28 years young. He was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, and he was also posthumously promoted to specialist.

Like Congressman ISRAEL, I have had the privilege of working with his mother Dorrine, who, again, rather than curse the darkness, has done so much to help those who are in combat in Iraq, in Afghanistan, throughout the world. She has brought Brownies to my office, Girl Scouts. She is active on so many different issues involving the welfare of our soldiers. I admire her for having the strength that she does.

Congressman ISRAEL and I were at a recent 9/11 commemoration at Farmingdale University. She was there at that, Dorrine was there. So she again has done so much in memory of her son.

Similarly, I have the privilege of having his father, Mo Fletcher, reside in my district. Mr. Fletcher is a Vietnam veteran. He is also a very courageous man who gives so much of his time to veterans, to the military. Whenever a soldier is killed in combat who is from Long Island and adjoining areas, Mo Fletcher goes to the wake, goes to the funeral, stays with the family. So he is a very, very decent human being. And you can see why Jacob turned out to be the outstanding man that he was.

In addition, Jacob is survived by his stepfather, his sister Tara, and his brothers Scott and Josh.

I just urge all the Members of this body to really cast their vote for a true American hero, Jacob Fletcher, who gave his life so that all of us could be free, and may he rest in peace, and, again, may God bless him and his entire family.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would yield myself the balance of our time.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 5664, which names the postal facility in Babylon, New York, after Jacob Samuel Fletcher.

H.R. 5664 was introduced by Representative PETER KING and strongly supported by Representative ISRAEL. This measure, which has the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York congressional delegation, was unanimously reported from our committee on July 20, 2006.

Jacob Fletcher, a native of New York and graduate of Babylon High School, was a young man with a life-long goal

of joining the military. Finally at the age of 27, he was able to join the Army. A member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Private First Class Fletcher made an historic jump into Iraq on March 23, 2003, the first week of the war.

Sadly he was killed when a roadside bomb exploded the bus on which he was riding on November 14, 2003, in Samarra, Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, designating the Cooper Street Post Office in Private First Class Jacob Fletcher's name honors the tremendous sacrifice of this soldier, and demonstrates how much we value his life. I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 5664, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5664, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Cooper Street in Babylon, New York, as the 'Jacob Samuel Fletcher Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1845

HONORING SERGEANT GERMAINE DEBRO

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. "It's hard to be sad when I'm so proud. You are my hero." These were the words Alvin Debro, Jr., used to bid his brother, Sergeant Germaine Debro, a final goodbye.

Sergeant Debro was killed near Balad, Iraq, on September 4 when his Humvee hit a roadside bomb. A member of the Nebraska National Guard, he had served in both Bosnia and Kuwait. Because of these recent deployments, he was not required to go to Iraq. But as a single man with no children, he volunteered so other soldiers would not have to leave their families.

At the funeral service at Morningstar Baptist Church in North Omaha, Pastor Leroy Adams said to us: I look across this sanctuary, and I see America, one Nation, under God, in a church brought together by Germaine. It's not how long you live, it's how well you live.

His friends recall Germaine's love for life, selflessness and compassion for others. Germaine's mother, Pricilla, said her son died a proud soldier. Our Nation will be forever grateful to Ser-

geant Germaine Debro and his ultimate sacrifice.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE BOB NEY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BOB NEY, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the House as Chair of the Franking Commission. I am grateful to Chairman Ehlers for the opportunity I have had to serve in this position.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the majority and minority staff of the Franking Commission, as we have worked together to ensure the standards of the Commission have been met. In particular, I would like to commend Jack Dail and Rich Landon for unending dedication to the commission. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I am removing myself from the Franking Commission effective today.

Sincerely,

BOB NEY,
Member of Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA EVEN BETTER THAN WAL-MART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, some say it's the best part of Wal-Mart, those happy greeters wearing a smiley face like this one I have here, giving helpful directions, giving coupons away. Others say these greeters even help with shoplifting. I just love Wal-Mart and those greeters. If a product is not at Wal-Mart, you just don't need it. Wal-Mart greeters make a good place even better.

However, the same could not be said of our national greeters. When I look at our southern border, I see policies that have turned our Border Patrol into an army of glorified gun-toting Wal-Mart greeters. They stop some of the thieves from coming into America, but they seem to end up acting like our official greeters, because our government has tied their hands.

Our government seems to be more concerned about the people who enter America illegally than our border agents, those that are already here and charged with protecting our border. Their work is subject to extensive intimidation by the Mexican Government, because Mexico doesn't want their own citizens, so they send them

to the United States. Mexico uses treaties and lawsuits to give their citizens the protection that even Americans don't have.

The Mexican Government even gives illegals, heading north, maps so they can know where they illegally enter the United States and confront our border agents. Mexico is handing out shopping carts and the store directory to the virtual Wal-Mart, America.

But because we don't secure the border, we are opening up our aisles. But our version of Wal-Mart has an even better deal for these invaders, because it's all free. The American taxpayer pays for everything the illegals take from our Nation.

Take for instance, aisle number one, free health care. Mexico won't take care of its citizens, so the United States has become the free HMO of Mexico. It is a known fact that there are signs in Mexico telling expectant mothers what clinics across the border can deliver their anchor babies. Once those babies get sick, aisle one is the place where all their health care needs can be met: doctors, free health insurance, formulas, immunizations with no questions asked, and, of course, no bills. What a deal.

Aisle number two, it's the best education money can buy. Illegals enroll their child, and they can go to school through the 12th grade for free. In Mexico, that government only educates their children through the sixth grade. So the government says, go to America. The Americans will give you a free education in our language, Spanish, and if the student is hungry or needs after-school care, don't worry, aisle number two has free hot lunches, free after-school programs and, after all, our Wal-Mart only has the best.

We can't forget aisle number three. For all your identification needs, we have matricular cards for these illegals. Plenty of States and even the government accepts them for driver's licenses, Social Security and even fake IDs.

Let us go to aisle number four, free Social Security benefits for you and your kids. Aisle number five. It's free welfare to illegals, food stamps, housing, day care.

Mr. Speaker, I did not come up with the idea of calling our border agents Wal-Mart greeters. The truth is, that's what they call themselves. Because they know they are on the side of the American law, but the American law is not really on their side. They end up appearing to greet illegals instead of having the authority to send them back home.

If border agents are really allowed to do their job, our government doesn't seem to back them up. Today, Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean, two Border Patrol agents who shot a Mexican drug dealer, are being punished by a disloyal American government for just doing their job. After all, shooting a drug smuggler is no way for a greeter to act.